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WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2000

No. 15

Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 22, 2000, at 11 a.m.

House of Representatives

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2000

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Reverend Dr. Ronald F. Christian, Lutheran Social Services, Fairfax, Virginia, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, in this moment of silence and reflection, we acknowledge Your presence. The Psalmist reminds us that You hear the prayers of all people, the rich and the poor, the mighty and the weak, the hopeful and the discouraged. And, that before You all words are the same, all petitions are known and all needs are recognized.

O God, we believe it is Your will to bring us all together in a single peace. So, therefore our simple prayer this day is, that we will show mercy, as we would want mercy shown, that we will care about others, as we would be cared about, that we will give love as we would want love to be given, and that we will be patient as we request patience to be provided to us. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Chair's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a

quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 354, nays 46, not voting 34, as follows:

[Roll No. 22]

YEAS—354

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Andrews
Archer
Armey
Baca
Bachus
Baker
Baldwin
Ballenger
Barcia
Barr
Barrett (NE)
Barrett (WI)
Bartlett
Bass
Bateman
Becerra
Bentsen
Bereuter
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilirakis
Blagojevich
Bliley
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehlert
Bonilla
Bonior
Bono
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd
Brady (TX)

Brown (FL)
Bryant
Burr
Burton
Buyer
Calvert
Camp
Canady
Cannon
Capuano
Cardin
Carson
Castle
Chabot
Chambliss
Clayton
Clement
Coble
Coburn
Collins
Combest
Condit
Conyers
Cook
Cox
Coyne
Cramer
Crowley
Cubin
Cummings
Cunningham
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis (VA)
Deal
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro

DeLay
DeMint
Deutsch
Diaz-Balart
Dickey
Dicks
Dingell
Dixon
Doggett
Dooley
Doolittle
Dreier
Duncan
Dunn
Edwards
Ehlers
Ehrlich
Emerson
Engel
Eshoo
Evans
Everett
Ewing
Farr
Fattah
Fletcher
Foley
Forbes
Fowler
Frank (MA)
Franks (NJ)
Frelinghuysen
Frost
Gallegly
Ganske
Gekas
Gilchrest
Gilman

Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Goodling
Gordon
Goss
Granger
Green (TX)
Green (WI)
Greenwood
Hall (OH)
Hall (TX)
Hansen
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Herger
Hill (IN)
Hilleary
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hobson
Hoefel
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Hooley
Horn
Hostettler
Houghton
Hoyer
Hunter
Hyde
Inslee
Isakson
Istook
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee
(TX)
Jefferson
Jenkins
John
Johnson (CT)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kasich
Kelly
Kennedy

Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind (WI)
King (NY)
Kingston
Klecza
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kuykendall
LaHood
Lampson
Lantos
Largent
Larson
Latham
LaTourette
Lazio
Leach
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
Lofgren
Lucas (KY)
Lucas (OK)
Luther
Maloney (CT)
Maloney (NY)
Manzullo
Markey
Mascara
Matsui
McCarthy (MO)
McCarthy (NY)
McCrery
McGovern
McHugh
McInnis
McIntosh
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinney
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Menendez
Metcalfe
Mica
Millender
McDonald

Miller (FL)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Minge
Mink
Moakley
Mollohan
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Morella
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nethercutt
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nussle
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Ose
Oxley
Packard
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Paul
Payne
Pease
Pelosi
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Phelps
Pickering
Pitts
Pombo
Pomeroy
Porter
Portman
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Quinn
Radanovich
Rahall
Rangel
Regula
Reyes
Reynolds
Riley

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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H457

Rivers	Shimkus	Thornberry
Rodriguez	Shows	Thune
Roemer	Shuster	Thurman
Rogers	Simpson	Toomey
Rohrabacher	Sisisky	Towns
Ros-Lehtinen	Skeen	Trafficant
Rothman	Skelton	Turner
Roukema	Smith (MI)	Upton
Roybal-Allard	Smith (NJ)	Velazquez
Rush	Smith (TX)	Vitter
Ryan (WI)	Smith (WA)	Walden
Ryun (KS)	Souder	Walsh
Salmon	Spence	Wamp
Sanchez	Spratt	Watkins
Sanders	Stabenow	Watt (NC)
Sandlin	Stark	Watts (OK)
Sawyer	Stearns	Waxman
Saxton	Stump	Weiner
Scarborough	Stupak	Weldon (FL)
Schakowsky	Sununu	Weldon (PA)
Scott	Sweeney	Wexler
Sensenbrenner	Talent	Whitfield
Serrano	Tancredo	Wicker
Sessions	Tanner	Wilson
Shadegg	Tauscher	Wise
Shaw	Tauzin	Wolf
Shays	Taylor (NC)	Woolsey
Sherman	Terry	Wynn
Sherwood	Thomas	Young (FL)

NAYS—46

Aderholt	Hill (MT)	Sabo
Billbray	Hilliard	Schaffer
Borski	Hulshof	Slaughter
Brady (PA)	Klink	Stenholm
Clyburn	Kucinich	Strickland
Costello	LaFalce	Taylor (MS)
Crane	LoBiondo	Thompson (CA)
English	McDermott	Thompson (MS)
Etheridge	McNulty	Udall (CO)
Filner	Meeks (NY)	Udall (NM)
Ford	Moore	Visclosky
Gibbons	Oberstar	Waters
Gillmor	Peterson (MN)	Weller
Gutierrez	Pickett	Wu
Gutknecht	Ramstad	
Hefley	Rogan	

NOT VOTING—34

Baird	Danner	Myrick
Baldacci	DeFazio	Owens
Barton	Doyle	Royce
Bishop	Fossella	Sanford
Boehner	Gejdenson	Snyder
Brown (OH)	Gephardt	Tiahrt
Callahan	Graham	Tierney
Campbell	Hutchinson	Vento
Capps	Jones (OH)	Weygand
Chenoweth-Hage	Lowey	Young (AK)
Clay	Martinez	
Cooksey	McCollum	

□ 1028

So the Journal was approved.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). Will the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PORTMAN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF HOUSE RESOLUTION 396

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of House Resolution 396.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Hawaii?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain 15 one-minutes on each side.

SOCIAL SECURITY EARNINGS LIMIT

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, Benjamin Franklin once said that when people "are employed, they are best contented." Unfortunately, our Government right now is denying contentment to millions of seniors who want to work but cannot because of the Social Security earnings limit.

Because of this earnings limit, seniors who work are being stripped of their Social Security benefits, the very Social Security benefits that they have spent their adult life earning and paying for with their own money. They are being penalized \$2 for every \$1 they earn if they choose to keep working. This is nonsense. It is wrong. And it must end.

Fortunately, the Republicans here in the House are supporting a plan that would give relief to the millions of seniors who are burdened by the earnings limit. We understand that senior citizens who choose to work should not have to put their Social Security benefits at risk.

Senior citizens can and do make lasting contributions in the workforce, and they should not be denied that right. The time has come to put an end to the Social Security earnings limit and tell our working citizens that we do not think they should be punished for having a job.

AFFORDABLE PRESCRIPTION DRUGS IN AMERICA

(Mr. BONIOR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, the discharge petition drive that is being launched today is strong medicine, and it is the right prescription for American families.

But do not take my word for it. Just ask Sue Darling, who is a constituent of mine in Port Huron, Michigan.

Mrs. Darling suffers from Parkinson's Disease and other illnesses. In fact, before her husband died last year, they spent 60 percent of their income on the medicine that they both needed.

The cost of filling three prescriptions Mrs. Darling needs just for her emphysema alone comes to more than \$300 per month. That is \$300 for three prescriptions.

She has Medigap coverage, but it is exhausted after three months.

Mrs. Darling is at the point now where she would beg her physician for free samples of the inhalers that she needs. That is why we are jump-starting the debate over affordable prescription drugs in this country.

The chance to craft a sensible solution, we are not asking for anything more than that.

Lord knows Americans like Mrs. Darling deserve nothing less.

□ 1030

LET US GIVE SENIORS RELIEF FROM SOCIAL SECURITY EARNINGS LIMIT

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, Thomas Edison once said, there is no substitute for hard work. I think most of us in the chamber could agree with that. There is no substitute for the feeling of satisfaction after a hard day's work. Too often, work is something that many people take for granted. But one group of people who do not take work for granted is our seniors. Because of the Social Security earnings limit, working seniors can literally not afford to take work for granted. Because of the Social Security earnings limit, millions of working seniors are stripped of their Social Security benefits. Their crime is employment. Because they have a job, the government takes away the Social Security benefits that they have spent a lifetime earning.

This is wrong. This is not fair. Last week, the House took the first step in giving relief to married couples who pay tax penalties because they are married. Now it is time to give relief to seniors who are penalized because they work. Let us all join together and give seniors relief from the Social Security earnings limit.

SENIORS DESERVE TO PAY LESS FOR PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

(Mr. CUMMINGS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, we have a health crisis in this Nation. Our seniors are being priced out of the prescription drugs that help keep them alive and allow them to live healthy lives. I submit that after a lifetime of service to family and community, our seniors deserve to pay less. They deserve to pay less than customers of drug companies who receive discounts because they have market power. But more importantly, they deserve to pay less than that which is paid for drugs used by animals. Today I am releasing a government reform minority study of my district in Maryland which reveals that drug manufacturer prices are twice as high for humans than for animals, and these price differentials cannot be justified by quality differences.